

Message Text

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PAGE 01 USUN N 04550 110252Z
ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 HA-05 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 OIC-02 ACDA-12
/123 W

-----061654 112140Z /46

R 110018Z NOV 77
FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7282
INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY RABAT

UNCLAS USUN 4550

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PORG, UNSC, SS
SUBJECT: BOUTEFLIKA LETTER TO SECURITY COUNCIL ON WESTERN SAHARA

1. THERE FOLLOWS AS PARA 2 TEXT OF NOVEMBER 9 LETTER
FROM ALGERIAN FOREIGN MINISTER BOUTEFLIKA TO PRESIDENT
OF SECURITY COUNCIL ON THE SUBJECT OF WESTERN SAHARA.
ADDRESSEES WILL NOTE LETTER DOES NOT RPT NOT CALL FOR
SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION.

2. QUOTE

LETTER DATED 9 OVEMBER 1977 FROM THE MINISTER FOR FOREIGN
AFFAIRS OF ALGERIA ADDRSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY
COUNCIL

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN CONNEXION WITH WESTERN SAHARA CAUSE MY
GOVERNMENT CONCERN COMMENSURATE WITH THE AGGRAVATION OF TENSION IN
THE REGION, AND SEEM TO ME TO REQUIRE YOUR FULL ATTENTION.
UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 USUN N 04550 110252Z

BECAUSE OF THE FAILURE TO FIND, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PRINCIPLE OF
SELF-DETERMINATION OF PEOPLES, A JUST AND LASTING SOLUTION UNDER
THE RELEVANT RESOLUTIONS OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND OTHER INTER-
NATIONAL AGENCIES, THE PROBLEM OF WESTERN SAHARA CONTINUES TO
PROVOKE ARMED CLASHES BETWEEN THE SAHARAN PEOPLE AND THE
OCCUPATION FORCES OF MOROCCO AND MAURITANIA.

THE CONFLICT THUS CREATED IN THE MAGHREB, A REGION IN WHICH THERE IS EVERY REASON FOR FRATERNAL CO-OPERATION AND UNITY TO PREVAIL AMONG ALL ITS PEOPLES, HAS BECOME INCREASINGLY SERIOUS BECAUSE OF THE REFUSAL OF THE GOVERNMENTS OF MOROCCO AND MAURITANIA TO RESPECT THE DECISIONS OF INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES AND TO ACCEPT THE PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF THIS DECOLONIZATION QUESTION.

THE RESISTANCE OF THE SAHARAN PEOPLE IS NOW ON SUCH A SCALE, AND THEY HAVE RECEIVED SUCH A HEARING AND GAINED SUCH SYMPATHY AND SOLIDARITY THROUGHOUT THE WORLD, THAT NO ONE CAN ANY LONGER DENY THE NATURE OF THE FIGHT THEY ARE WAGING UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF THE POLISARIO FRONT OR BE UNAWARE OF THEIR RESOLVE TO RECOVER THEIR FREEDOM AND DIGNITY.

IN THE CASE OF THE QUESTION OF WESTERN SAHARA AS IN ALL OTHER DECOLONIZATION QUESTIONS, ALGERIA HAS CONSISTENTLY ACTED WITH RESPECT FOR THE FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES OF THE CHARTERS AND RESOLUTIONS OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND OAU. TO THAT END, IT HAS CONSTANTLY CALLED FOR A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE AGENCIES ALREADY SEIZED OF THE QUESTION, WITH A VIEW TO PRESERVING OUR REGION FROM ANY OUTSIDE INTERFERENCE AND ENSURING ITS PROSPECTS OF FRUITFUL CO-OPERATION.

THE LATEST DEVELOPMENTS WITH REGARD TO THE QUESTION OF WESTERN SAHARA CONFIRM - IF ANY CONFIRMATION IS NEEDED - THE INTERVENTIONIST UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 USUN N 04550 110252Z

INTENTIONS OF FORMER COLONIAL POWERS IN THE REGION. NO EFFORT IS SPARED TO ENCOURAGE AGGRESSION FROM WITHIN AFRICA ITSELF AGAINST THE SAHARAN PEOPLE AND TO CREATE CONDITIONS FOR OPEN MILITARY INTERVENTION DESIGNED, LIKE THE SUPPORT ALREADY GIVEN TO THE OCCUPATION OF WESTERN SAHARA TO INFRINGE THE SOVEREIGNTY AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF STATES.

USING AS A PRETEXT A SITUATION OF THE KIND WHICH ANY ARMED CONFRONTATION INEVITABLY PRODUCES, THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT, WHILE OFFICIALLY ASSUMING AN ATTITUDE OF NEUTRALITY, IS NO LONGER CONCEALING ITS BIAS AND ITS INVOLVEMENT ON THE SIDE OF THE AGGRESSOR STATES. ITS BELLIGERENT DECLARATIONS AND THE MASSIVE AID GIVEN TO THE MOROCCAN AND MAURITANIAN ARMED FORCES IN THEIR ENDEAVOUR TO EXTERMINATE THE SAHARAN PEOPLE ARE EVIDENCE OF A CLEAR INTENT TO FAN THE FLAMES OF CONFLICT AND TO ENCOURAGE ESCALATION. SUCH A POLICY HAS JUST BEEN ILLUSTRATED IN THE STATEMENT OF THE KING OF MOROCCO, WHO, DENYING THE EXISTENCE OF THE SAHARAN PEOPLE AND OF THE POLISARIO FRONT, TRIES TO PLACE ON ALGERIA THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE STATE OF WAR PREVAILING IN WESTERN SAHARA, PROCLAIMS THAT THE MOROCCAN ARMY "WILL NO LONGER HESITATE TO VIOLATE ALGERIA'S BORDERS" AND INVOKES "A RIGHT OF HOT PURSUIT", OF SINISTER MEMORY FOR ALL THE PEOPLES OF THE

MAGHREB.

ALGERIA, WHICH HAS ALWAYS STRIVEN FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF RELATIONS OF TRUSTING FRIENDSHIP AND FRUITFUL CO-OPERATION WITH ALL ITS NEIGHBOURS AND ITS MEDITERRANEAN PARTNERS, CAN ONLY DEPLORE THE OBSTACLES NOW BEING RAISED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF FRANCE TO THAT OBJECTIVE, TO WHICH ALL THE PEOPLES OF THE REGION ASPIRE, AND HAS WARNED THE MOROCCAN AUTHORITIES AGAINST ANY ATTEMPT AT INFRINGING ITS SOVEREIGNTY AND ITS TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY.

IN BRINGING THESE FACTS TO YOUR NOTICE, MY GOVERNMENT WISHES ONCE AGAIN TO DRAW THE ATTENTION OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO THE SERIOUS DEVELOPMENTS RELATING TO THE PROBLEM OF WESTERN SAHARA AND TO THE THREATS TO OUR REGION REPRESENTED BY DEPLOYMENTS OF
UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 04 USUN N 04550 110252Z

FRENCH TROOPS AND THE DECLARED INTENTION OF MOROCCO TO TAKE MILITARY ACTION AGAINST ALGERIA. THE UNITED NATIONS, WHICH IS STILL SEIZED OF THE QUESTION, CANNOT REMAIN INDIFFERENT TO DEVELOPMENTS THAT SERIOUSLY THREATEN SECURITY, STABILITY AND PEACE IN THIS REGION, WHICH THE SECURITY COUNCIL IS PLEDGED TO MAINTAIN.

ON INSTRUCTIONS FROM MY GOVERNMENT, I WOULD REQUEST YOU TO HAVE THIS LETTER CIRCULATED AS A SECURITY COUNCIL DOCUMENT.

(SIGNED) ABDELAZIZ BOUTEFLIKA
MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
MEMBER OF THE REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TEXT, POLICIES, DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS, SELFGOVERNMENT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 11-Nov-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977USUNN04550
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770418-0116
Format: TEL
From: USUN NEW YORK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19771167/aaaacfej.tel
Line Count: 152
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 1aa0801b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 615958
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BOUTEFLIKA LETTER TO SECURITY COUNCIL ON WESTERN SAHARA
TAGS: PORG, SS, AG, UNSC
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/1aa0801b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009